



General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 October 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session

Fifth Committee

Agenda item 169

**Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses
of United Nations peacekeeping operations**

**Note verbale dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent
Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to its note verbale dated 5 October 2000, has the honour to request that the above-mentioned note verbale be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 169, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations".

The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

New York, 20 October 2000

**Annex to the note verbale dated 20 October 2000 from the
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to draw the latter's attention to the necessity of relocating the Kingdom of Cambodia from group (c) to group (d) in the scheme for the apportionment of the costs of the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Cambodia requests that the matter be included for consideration under agenda item 169 entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations", at the earliest available opportunity.

Since the introduction of the scheme for the apportionment of the costs of the United Nations peacekeeping operations with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, Cambodia has been placed in group (c). However, it is significant to point out that, as a result of three decades of wars, conflicts, unrest and economic crisis, Cambodia is now categorized as one of the least developed countries in the world, with an average per capita gross national product (GNP) of US\$ 260 per annum (source: World Bank World Development Indicators Database 1999); Cambodia's per capita GNP is lower than that of a number of countries placed in category (d).

While the Kingdom of Cambodia has been consistently fulfilling its financial obligations to the United Nations, it also believes that the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the peacekeeping operations should correctly reflect the current economic situation of the country, and the relocation of Cambodia from group (c) to group (d) will underline the seriousness of the United Nations in its attempts to be more transparent in its decision-making process to achieve the goal of overall reform.

The Royal Government of Cambodia believes that, considering the above facts, its request will be regarded positively.

The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

New York, 5 October 2000



General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 October 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 118
Programme planning

Letter dated 23 October 2000 from the Chairman of the First Committee addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

In response to your letter dated 19 September 2000 concerning the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, it is my pleasure to inform you that at its 16th meeting, on 17 October 2000, the First Committee considered programme 2, Disarmament, of the proposed medium-term plan (A/55/6 (Prog. 2)) and the revisions thereto (A/55/16, part one).

Attached please find an extract from the verbatim record (A/C.1/55/PV.16) of the thematic discussion on item subjects, including the consideration and recommendations on programme 2 of the medium-term plan, to allow the Fifth Committee to take into account the views of Member States on this issue.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish you and your Committee success in your work.

(Signed) Mya Than
Chairman, First Committee



Annex

Extract from the verbatim record of the 16th meeting of the First Committee (A/C.1/55/PV.16)

We shall now proceed to the consideration of the medium-term plan on the basis of the documents that were distributed last Friday: A/55/6, programme 2; A/55/16, part I; and A/C.1/55/CRP.3.

I give the floor to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, to make some introductory remarks on the medium-term plan.

Mr. Dhanapala (Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs): The disarmament programme of the Organization, programme 2, is one of the eight priority programmes identified by the Secretary-General, and its implementation has been vested with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, which was re-established in 1998.

Before I proceed to introduce the proposed medium-term plan contained in document A/C.1/55/CRP.3, which is now before the Committee, I should like to provide some background information on this proposed plan.

Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly that medium-term-plan proposals be reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies prior to their submission to the United Nations programme and budgetary bodies, the draft medium-term plan for disarmament was submitted last April to the Disarmament Commission for review. Thereafter, a revised proposed plan that took into account the comments of the Disarmament Commission was submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination by the Secretary-General at its fortieth session, held from 5 June to 1 July 2000, for its consideration.

The Secretary-General's proposed medium-term plan for disarmament is contained in document A/55/6, programme 2. On the basis of the outcome of its discussions, the Committee for Programme and Coordination introduced a number of modifications to the proposed medium-term plan for the disarmament programme and recommended that the General Assembly approve the proposed plan, as modified.

The modified medium-term plan is contained in document A/C.1/55/CRP.3, as I mentioned earlier,

while the results of the discussion at the Committee for Programme and Coordination, including its conclusions and recommendations, are recorded in document A/55/16, part I. I understand that the three documents I have mentioned were circulated to the First Committee last Friday.

As representatives know, the medium-term plan is the principal policy directive of the United Nations. It is a translation of legislative mandates into programmes and subprogrammes, its objectives and strategies to be derived from the policy orientations and goals set by the intergovernmental organs. It serves as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets within the period covered by the plan. It should be noted also that the medium-term plan will be revised and updated every two years to reflect any new or additional mandates derived from the General Assembly and relevant intergovernmental organs.

The proposed plan for the disarmament programme was drawn up on the basis of existing mandates set by the Charter and the General Assembly in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, including its special sessions on disarmament. As such, the proposed plan does not deviate in any significant manner from the previous medium-term plan for disarmament, given that there has been no drastic change in the existing mandates.

I should like to bring to the Committee's attention, however, one main difference between the last medium-term plan and the one that is now before the Committee. The current proposed plan contains a description of the disarmament programme as a whole as well as of its subprogrammes, which correspond to the organizational units of the Department. There were no subprogrammes in the previous plan.

Let me now briefly highlight the proposed plan of the disarmament programme. The general orientation of the programme continues to focus on two major concerns in the field of disarmament, namely weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and conventional arms. As outlined in the proposed plan before the Committee, contained in document A/C.1/55/CRP.3, the overall strategy of the programme

is to facilitate and to encourage, as appropriate, disarmament measures at all levels.

Within this framework, the programme will continue to assist Member States in promoting, strengthening and consolidating multilaterally negotiated principles and norms in all the fields of disarmament. It will promote transparency and confidence-building measures. It will expand its outreach activities, including through its Web site on the Internet, to ensure the exchange of impartial and factual information on disarmament and security-related matters among Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations. It will assist Member States in promoting regional approaches to disarmament and security, including through the Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament.

The programme will continue to facilitate the process of multilateral deliberation and negotiation. It will monitor and assess current and future trends in the field of disarmament and international security. It will continue to provide training and advisory services to Member States, in particular developing countries. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/2, the programme will address gender concerns in its activities.

The objectives of the disarmament programme will be pursued through its five sub-programmes, namely, multilateral negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament; weapons of mass destruction; conventional arms, including practical disarmament measures; monitoring database and information; and regional disarmament.

Bearing in mind that the medium-term plan provides the future direction and approach of the disarmament programme, I need not stress how important and valuable the input of this Committee will be as the main Committee of the General Assembly dealing with disarmament and international security matters. I look forward to the constructive views and comments of the members of the Committee. I remain at the Committee's disposal for any additional information or clarifications. As pointed out by the Chairman, the views of members on the deliberations of the proposed plan will be transmitted to the Fifth Committee, which is expected to begin its consideration of the item on programme planning at the end of October.

The Chairman: The floor is now open for comments. In this connection, I should like to inform the Committee that the Under-Secretary-General has expressed his readiness to answer any questions concerning the medium-term plan.

Ms. Arce de Jeannet (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I should like to thank Under-Secretary-General Dhanapala for his detailed introduction of the disarmament section of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

The delegation of Mexico had the honour of coordinating the informal consultations held on programme 2, entitled "Disarmament", of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 during the meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination session held last July.

I should like to express our appreciation to all the delegations that took part in those consultations. Their flexibility and readiness to compromise made it possible for us to reach agreement on a text acceptable to all the participants. The recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which are contained in paragraph 55 of Part I of document A/55/16, reflect that consensus. I should point out that that text is the same as that circulated in the First Committee in document A/C.1/55/CRP.3.

These were negotiations which, above all, highlighted the interest Member States have in consolidating the work of the Organization in the disarmament arena. In the course of the consultations, compromises necessary for reaching agreement had to be made. The final text represents a delicate balance which we believe must be preserved. Perhaps because of a mistake in the transcription of the document agreed to in informal consultations, the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination did not include the agreed version of the final paragraph dealing with the legislative mandates for programme 2, entitled "Disarmament". That, too, was a consensus paragraph. It should read as follows:

(*spoke in English*)

"The mandate for the programme derives from the priorities established in the relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions in the field of disarmament, including the final document of the tenth special session of the

General Assembly devoted to disarmament, resolution S-10/2."

(spoke in Spanish)

That paragraph should take the place of the list of resolutions currently found in A/C.1/55/CRP.3, because that was the text agreed on in the informal consultations.

Having made that clarification, the delegation of Mexico reaffirms its backing for the recommendations submitted by the Committee for Programme and Coordination for programme 2, entitled "Disarmament", with the aim of ensuring their inclusion in the final version of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

The Chairman: The comments of the representative of Mexico will, of course, be transmitted to the Fifth Committee.

If any other delegation wishes to speak, the floor is open.

Delegations may also submit their views to me in writing. Those views will also be transmitted to the Fifth Committee. Delegations wishing to submit their views in writing should do so by 23 October at the latest, so that we have time to prepare the report to the Fifth Committee.

As no other delegation wishes to speak on this subject, I should like to express, on behalf of the Committee, our deep appreciation for the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs for his very comprehensive statement relating to the medium-term plan.

We have concluded our consideration of the medium-term plan. We shall prepare a verbatim record of the discussion in the Committee this morning, reflecting the views and comments expressed by delegations, and will transmit it to the Fifth Committee for due consideration.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 October 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 118
Programme planning

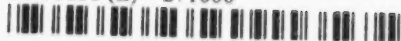
Letter dated 23 October 2000 from the Chairman of the Second Committee addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I am writing in response to your letter dated 19 September 2000 (A/C.2/55/5) in which you requested the Second Committee to consider the relevant chapters of the medium-term plan, as recommended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

In view of your request, the Second Committee scheduled a debate on this matter at its 20th meeting on 20 October 2000. In this connection, I should like to inform you that no delegation chose to make an intervention on the subject, despite the fact that the relevant sections of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 were made available.

I should like to wish you every success in your important work.

(Signed) Alexandru Niculescu
Chairman
Second Committee



**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
25 October 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 118
Programme planning

Letter dated 23 October 2000 from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I wish to refer to your letter of 19 September 2000 concerning the recommendations made by the Committee on Programme and Coordination to the effect that the Main Committees of the General Assembly should consider the issue of programme planning for the review of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

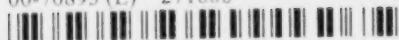
Members of the Sixth Committee were informed of the above-mentioned request and copies of document A/55/6 (Prog.5) (programme 5, Legal affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan), in all languages, were distributed in the Committee with a request that any comments on the programme be submitted to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee for further consideration.

Further to that request, comments were received from the delegation of Cuba, which are enclosed herewith (see annex).

It should be noted that document A/55/6 (Prog.5) did not contain the proposed revisions by any organ to the original proposed version of programme 5.

Consequently, the absence of comments on any proposed revision introduced to the original version of programme 5 of the proposed medium-term plan should not be taken as an endorsement to any such proposed revision.

(Signed) Mauro Politi
Chairman, Sixth Committee



Annex

I have the honour to address to you herewith general comments regarding programme 5, Legal affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (see enclosure).

(Signed) Rafael Dausá Céspedes
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

Enclosure

[Original: Spanish]

**Comments of the delegation of Cuba to the Sixth Committee,
under item 120 of the preliminary list, with respect to document
A/55/6 (Prog.5), of 4 April 2000****Introduction**

First, we are pleased to have a further opportunity of submitting more detailed and specialized comments on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 pursuant to and in conformity with the mandates contained in General Assembly resolutions. We wish to refer in particular to resolution 54/236 (para. 2), the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in document A/54/16 (recommendation in paragraph 55) and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (including article III, rule 103.111 and regulation 3.12).

As regards document A/55/6 (Prog.5), the Cuban delegation considers that the methodology used for the general presentation of the proposed medium-term plan is more appropriate than that normally applied at preceding sessions. The use of a more concise format should not, however, preclude the simplification of the narrative of the document or the adequate reflection of the legislative mandates contained in the relevant resolutions or in the context of legal affairs. Furthermore, in the discussion of subjects of this nature, extreme care is required in the use of the appropriate terminology.

Where the narrative on the overall orientation of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 is concerned, we consider that there should be reintroduced in paragraph 5.1 language that includes an explicit reference to the need to promote greater understanding of and respect for the norms and principles of international law on the part of Member States to support the achievement of the other purposes of the United Nations.

Subprogramme 1

With respect to subprogramme 1, we are unaware of the reasons for omitting in the title the term "*y servicios*" after the word "*asesoramiento*". It would be desirable to restore the traditional title, which includes the coordination of legal advice and services, a broader term.

The objective of subprogramme 1 should be reformulated or drafted more comprehensively to cover various objectives, in keeping with the title of the subprogramme itself.

A more appropriate reference to the objective of subprogramme 1 is to be found in document A/53/6/Rev.1, in the first part of paragraph 4.6 and in paragraphs 4.7 and 4.9.

The reference to "the use of force" in paragraph 5.6 should be replaced by an express reference to the use of force in conformity with the relevant resolutions

adopted by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

We consider that the term "United Nations law", used in paragraphs 5.5 and 5.7, is an inexact definition that lacks universal acceptance. Opinions differ as to whether or not United Nations law exists. It would be preferable to speak of compliance with and respect for international law and the principles and purposes contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

Paragraph 5.10, on expected accomplishments, should refer to "*aplicación del derecho internacional*", not "*uso del derecho internacional*".

A reference could be made in paragraph 5.10, on expected accomplishments, to the importance of achieving a broader dissemination, understanding and application of international law by Member States.

The indicators of achievement, the subject of paragraph 5.11, should state that the work should be carried out in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, consistent with the language employed in paragraph 4.11 of document A/53/6/Rev.1.

Subprogramme 2

Paragraph 5.12 is very concise and very general. Paragraph 4.12 of document A/53/6/Rev.1 provides an adequate basis for reformulating the main objective of this subprogramme, whose purpose is to provide services that enable the mandates of the Organization to be administered. Paragraph 5.13, which enumerates the tasks and activities to be undertaken to achieve that objective, could be couched in more explicit language.

Subprogramme 3

The formulation of the objective in paragraph 5.18 should be brought into line with the first sentence of paragraph 4.16 of document A/53/6/Rev.1. In other words, the concept of promoting acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law should be reflected first, and the content of paragraph 5.18 of the current draft should follow.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 3

The mandates contained in General Assembly resolutions 1816 (XVII), 1968 (XVIII) and 2099 (XX), "Technical assistance to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law", have been omitted.

General Assembly resolution 3006 (XXVII), "*United Nations Juridical Yearbook*", has been omitted.

Other omissions are:

General Assembly resolution 54/102, "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law";

General Assembly resolution 54/111, "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-first session";

General Assembly resolution 54/110, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism"; and

General Assembly resolution 54/107, "Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions".



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 October 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 118
Programme planning

Letter dated 24 October 2000 from the Chairman of the Third Committee to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 19 September 2000 in which you invited the Third Committee to consider the relevant chapters of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. That letter was published as a document of the Third Committee (A/C.3/55/6).

I should like to inform you that the Third Committee held a special meeting on 19 October 2000 in which it heard statements by the representatives of Cuba, Bangladesh, Australia, Pakistan, China, Chile, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria, Mexico and Egypt (see the relevant summary record (A/C.3/55/SR.28)). While it has not been possible to arrive at a consolidated set of comments for the programmes, delegations were invited also to submit individual comments in writing. I am therefore enclosing herewith the views of Committee members that have submitted written comments (see annex).

(Signed) Yvonne Gittens-Joseph
Chairperson of the Third Committee



Annex

Views of Third Committee members on programme 19 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Australia

I refer to the invitation to members of the Third Committee of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly to make written comments on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 to facilitate a response to the letter of the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.3/55/6). The delegation of Australia offers the following comments.

We welcome the introduction in this medium-term plan of indicators of achievement. The setting of performance indicators enables performance to be measured, problems of successes to be more readily identified and responses in the form of resource allocation and priority-setting to be more timely and better targeted. Given the often very serious consequences of violation or inadequate protection and promotion of human rights, well-targeted and calibrated programmes are particularly important in this area. This also makes it more important that indicators be well defined so as to facilitate effective measurement of performance. While we welcome the introduction of indicators of achievement, we see room for their further refinement, so that they relate closely to the objectives, the strategy and expected accomplishments defined in the plan. In particular we see value in including, in addition to quantitative indicators, those that enable some qualitative appraisal, such as levels of satisfaction of parties involved in processes.

In relation to subprogramme 1 of programme 19, we note (in para. 19.5) that one of the primary objectives is to realize the right to development. We consider this to be inappropriate as an objective, both because this right is by definition progressively realized so the objective could never be fulfilled, and because the primary actors in its realization are States and the role of the United Nations is to assist them in this work. With this understanding, we endorse the importance accorded to pursuit of the integrated and multidimensional strategy on the right to development (in para. 19.7). However we stress that the strategy should respond to work proceeding in the Commission on Human Rights to better articulate the elements of the right and on how the United Nations can best assist in its realization. In this respect, we believe that, while there are many factors that impact on realization of the right, the primary one is the quality of governance of the State concerned, and that this should be reflected in the strategy.

In relation to subprogramme 2, we note the important role of the United Nations in supporting the work of the human rights treaty-monitoring bodies as reflected in paragraph 19.13 (a). However we do not see this key element of the strategy adequately reflected in expected accomplishments or indicators of achievement for the subprogramme. While reduction in the backlog of States parties' reports and individual complaints currently before reviewing mechanisms (para. 19.14 (b)) and reduction in the time lapse between submission of a State party report and its examination by the relevant treaty-monitoring body, or receipt of a complaint and its review by the appropriate mechanism (para. 19.15 (c)), are both sound indicators, there would be value in adding complementary qualitative indicators, such as the degree of satisfaction of involved parties with the process, so

as to give a more complete picture of the effectiveness of the support provided to the bodies and mechanisms.

In relation to subprogramme 3, we welcome the priority accorded to advisory services and technical cooperation on national human rights action plans, national human rights institutions and human rights education (para. 19.18). However, we see value in broader indicators of achievement than simple numbers of plans adopted or institutions established (para. 19.23). We also note and welcome the human rights emergency response mechanism referred to in paragraph 19.20. We see a critical role for the United Nations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in this area which she is already fulfilling in relation to situations like those in East Timor, Kosovo, Chechnya and Palestine. We strongly support a reconfiguration of the resources of her Office to ensure that it is able to provide timely and effective support to her when she is responding to emergency situations, as provided for in her mandate or as specifically mandated by the Commission on Human Rights or other relevant United Nations bodies.

Indonesia

The following revisions are requested to the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 as contained in document A/55/6 (Prog. 19):

1. Paragraph 19.7: the following words should be inserted in the first sentence after the words "United Nations organizations": "and its special agencies and other major international institutions";

Rationale: in addressing the international aspects of the realization of the right to development, partnership should be developed not only among the United Nations organs but also with other major international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

2. Paragraph 19.8: the following words should be inserted in the first sentence after the words "promoting democracy": "at both national and international levels";

Rationale: to promote democracy at the international organizations level, among others, by giving more say to the developing countries in the global decision-making process, so as to help create a conducive international economic environment for the realization of the right to development.

3. Paragraph 19.13 (d): the following words should be inserted after the word "proposals": "and implementation of the recently adopted decisions by relevant United Nations bodies";

Rationale: to ensure that this paragraph is in line with recent developments, among others, Commission on Human Rights decision 2000/109 and the Economic and Social Council decision to endorse that Commission decision.

4. Paragraph 19.18: the following words should be inserted in the second sentence after the word "provided": "through the cost-effective and efficient implementation of technical cooperation programmes";

Rationale: to ensure that, in the strategy, the provisions of the technical assistance are implemented in a responsible manner.

5. Paragraph 19.23 (c): the following words should be inserted after the words "human rights action plans": "established and implemented"; and the following words should be inserted before the words "national human rights institutions established": "enumeration of";

Rationale: indicators of achievements should include the enumeration of not only established national plans of actions but also those plans of actions already implemented.

Japan

As a member of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), the delegation of Japan participated actively in the discussions on the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. Japan endorses the consensus reached in CPC on most of the programmes related to the work of the Third Committee.

It is regrettable, however, that a consensus was not reached on programme 19, Human rights. Japan will continue to participate actively in the discussion of the medium-term plan in the Fifth Committee with a view to achieving such a consensus. At this stage, it wishes to make the following points concerning the human rights programme:

1. Japan has been a strong supporter of the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It supports the general direction of the medium-term plan and attaches particular importance to subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities.
2. Japan believes that it is possible to introduce indicators for the human rights programme, as they have already been introduced for the rest of the programmes of the medium-term plan. However, there is still some room for discussion on what kind of indicators would be appropriate in the field of human rights.
3. Regarding paragraph 19.7, last sentence, the text reads only as follows: "Cooperation with international and national development agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council will be strengthened." Japan is of the view that cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant non-governmental organizations that do not have consultative status with the Council but are active in the field should not be excluded. For that reason, it wishes to revise this sentence to read, for example: "... development agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations, that are active in the field, including those non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council".
4. The implementation of human rights instruments is one of the most important areas of activity with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights in the international community, and the significance of the activities of human rights treaty bodies, therefore, will continue to increase.

Strengthening these treaty bodies and ensuring that they function more effectively and efficiently are essential, and there have been discussions in the United Nations forums on reforming them towards those ends.

In our consideration of the medium-term plan for the period 2001-2005, programme 19, Human rights, and especially of subprogramme 2 (Supporting human rights treaty bodies and organs), it is necessary to give due attention to such reform, which should be carried out within the existing mandate under the existing human rights instruments and within the regular budget of the United Nations.
